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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2572
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
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RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 3713
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 6051
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 1378
RUEHKS0/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 4250
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 7515
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 9002
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2829
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 5023
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 4820
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SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - G7, NORTH KOREA, AND
SWINE FLU

11. LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Monday morning included

the apparent spread of swine flu around the world and
Sunday's election of a DPJ-backed candidate in the
Nagoya mayoral race.

12. "U.S., Europe Should Dispose of Non-performing
Loans" On Friday's G7 financial ministerial in
Washington, the liberal Asahi editorialized (4/26):
"Granted that nobody expected the assembled ministers
to come up with a panacea that would swiftly contain
the current financial crisis, the meeting still failed
to produce any accomplishments.... The meeting could
have included frank discussions on the core issue of
toxic bank assets in the U.S. and Europe, which need to
be dealt with.... A world economic recovery will be
impossible unless the U.S. and Europe thoroughly
dispose of non-performing loans."

13. "North Korea Drawing Attention to Nuclear Programs"
The top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri reported from
Seoul (4/26): "North Korea's resumption of nuclear
reprocessing was primarily aimed at drawing global
attention away from its missile launch to its nuclear
programs.... Given that Pyongyang is likely to continue
its brinkmanship for the time being in order to enhance
its negotiating leverage, it will not be easy to
jumpstart the Six-Party Talks."

14. "Swift International Coordination Imperative to
containing Swine Flu" The business-oriented Nikkei
asserted in an editorial (4/27): "The World Health
Organization called for its member states to enhance
monitoring in order to ascertain the number of patients

who have contracted unusual types of flu. Enhanced cooperation among countries around the world would make it possible to contain the spread of swine flu to a minimum."

[15](#). "WHO Concerned about Potential Fallout" On the WTO decision to hold at pandemic alert phase 3 for now, the liberal Mainichi speculated (4/27): "In reaching the decision, the WTO may have focused on concerns about the magnitude of potential international repercussions caused by moving to phase 4."

ZUMWALT